



FOREST AS A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- South Savo region as a key to a communal forest knowledge

In South Savo region and in Eastern Finland as a whole, the economic and cultural value of the forest is bigger than in the other parts of the country on an average. Content and methodical solutions to exploit forest as a learning environment have been developed at the University of Eastern Finland, on Savonlinna campus. Results and different forms of cooperation have been collected to the OpenForest portal (www.openmetsa.fi). The portal was awarded by the Union of Finnish Academic Foresters (UFAF) as the Forest Act of 2014.

The main contributors of the project are the University of Eastern Finland, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and Finnish Forest Centre, including the experts from Lusto - The Finnish Forest Museum, Metsähallitus (National Board of Forestry) and tourism as partners in cooperation. Different forms and resources of the cooperation are collected and distributed via OpenForest portal, graduating student teachers and forest experts.

The forest theme and the OpenForest portal enable virtual participation, examination of the real-world phenomena, learning with the local communities and

on the other hand, joining the multidisciplinary and developing network of experts. The goal is to practice future skills, so that the learners at different levels of education can work with the knowledge actively and creatively and practice collecting, developing, evaluating and sharing information.

The goals of the project

- Developing the OpenForest portal (www.openmetsa.fi)
- Expanding the contents and user-producer communities of the portal
- Technological development
- Pedagogic productization of the forest environment and the linking expert structures
- Producing new information sectors and skills considering learning in and from forest, including expert cooperation and networking different disciplines and information sectors
- Applied research and pedagogic development of the learning environments

Execution period, estimated cost, and funding of the project

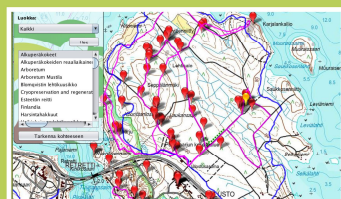
1.1.2015 - 31.12.2017. Total cost of the project is approx. 590 000 euro, from which 60% ERDF funding. Self-financing consists of portions from the University of Eastern Finland, town of Savonlinna, Finnish Forest Foundation, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and Finnish Forest Centre.

Further information

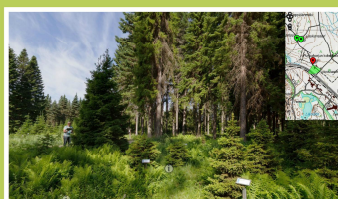
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Geographic Information Environment/ GIS



Virtual Forest



Forest in Education



Forest Research



Forestry



Tourism